

School Bus Safety Tips for Students

Walking to the Bus Stop

- ✓ Always walk on the sidewalk to the bus stop, never run. If there is no sidewalk, walk on the left facing traffic.
- ✓ Go to the bus stop about five minutes before the bus is scheduled to arrive. While at the bus stop, wait quietly in a safe place well away from the road. Do not run and play while waiting.

Getting On and Off the Bus

- ✓ Enter the bus in line with younger students in front. Hold the handrail while going up and down the stairs
- ✓ When entering the bus, go directly to a seat. Remain seated and face forward during the entire ride.

Riding the Bus

- ✓ Always speak quietly on the bus so the driver will not be distracted. Always be silent when a bus comes to a railroad crossing so the driver can hear if a train is coming.
- ✓ Never throw things on the bus or out the windows. Keep the aisles clear at all times. Feet should be directly in front of you on the floor and book bags should be kept on your lap. Large instruments or sports equipment should not block the aisle or emergency exits.
- ✓ Never play with the emergency exits. Large instruments or sports equipment should not block the aisle or emergency exits. If there is an emergency, listen to the driver and follow instructions.
- ✓ Hands should be kept to yourself at all times while riding on the bus. Fighting and picking on others creates a dangerous bus ride.

Exiting the Bus

- ✓ If you leave something on the bus, never return to the bus to get it. The driver may not see you come back and she may begin moving the bus. Make sure that drawstrings and other loose objects are secure before getting off the bus so that the do not get caught on the handrail or the door.
- ✓ Respect the "Danger Zone" which surrounds all sides of the bus. The "Danger Zone" is ten feet wide on all sides of the bus. Always remain 10 steps away from the bus to be out of the "Danger Zone" and where the driver can see you.
- ✓ Always cross the street in from of the bus. Never go behind the bus. If you drop something near the bus, tell the bus driver before you attempt to pick it up, so they will know where you are.
- ✓ Never speak to strangers at the bus stop and never get into the car with a stranger. Always go straight home and tell you parents if a stranger tries to talk to you or pick you up.

OBEY THE SIGNS



school's open

...AND SAVE LIVES

Over 50 million children are back in school and exposed to the school hazards but to traffic hazards as well. Here are some suggestions to help make the school year a safer one:

- * Be prepared to stop quickly when driving around school areas. Children do not watch where they are running when they are playing and they will unwittingly run into the street without checking traffic.
- * If your child walks to school, instruct him to cross at guarded crosswalks and to walk facing traffic if the roadside does not have sidewalks.
- * Encourage your child to walk with a group which is safer than when walking alone. Forbid his taking shortcuts through strange neighborhoods.
- * If your shild rides a bus, teach him not to roughhouse while boarding or alighting from the bus. Instruct him to sit down in the seat and remain sitting until he arrives at his stop.
- * Instruct your child to walk his bicycle across busy streets in marked crosswalks/intersections. Make sure your child understands and obeys bicycle regulations and knows to use safety measures when riding.
- * Children should know not to accept gifts or rides from strangers.
- * Make sure your child knows his name, address, and phone number. Do NOT put your child's name on a label on the outside of his garments. Children usually respond readily to anyone calling them by name.
- * Science projects worked on at home should be monitored by parents. No dangerous chemicals or explosives should be involved.
- * If your child carries your house key, do not identify it with your name and address. The finder has all the info required to enter your home.



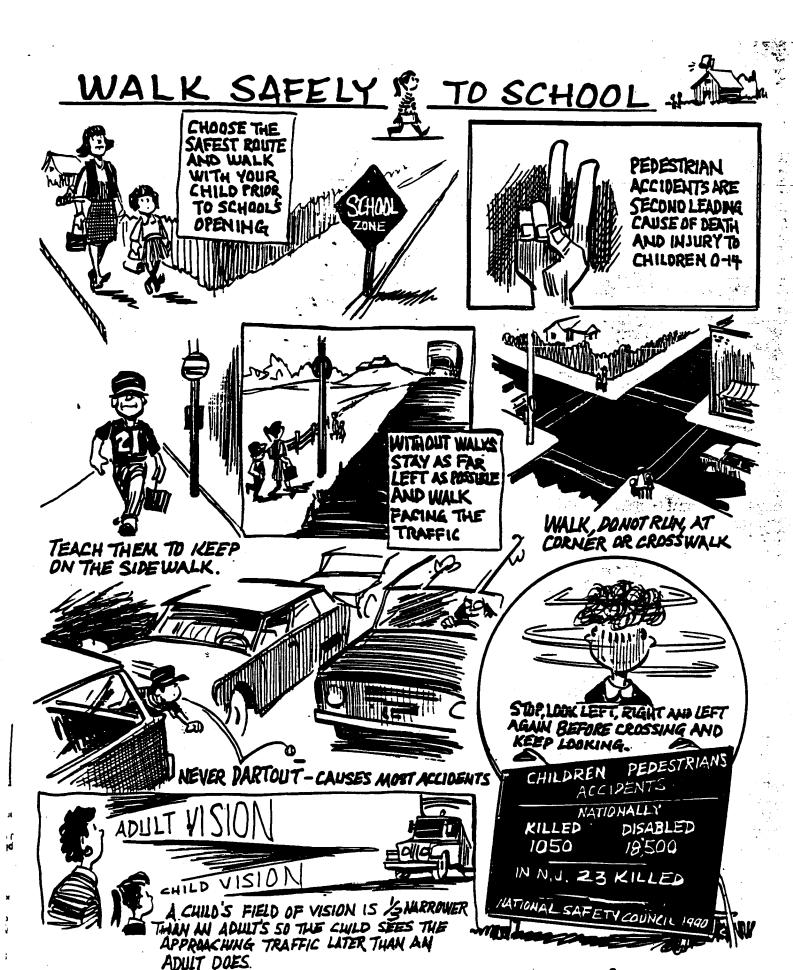
School Bus

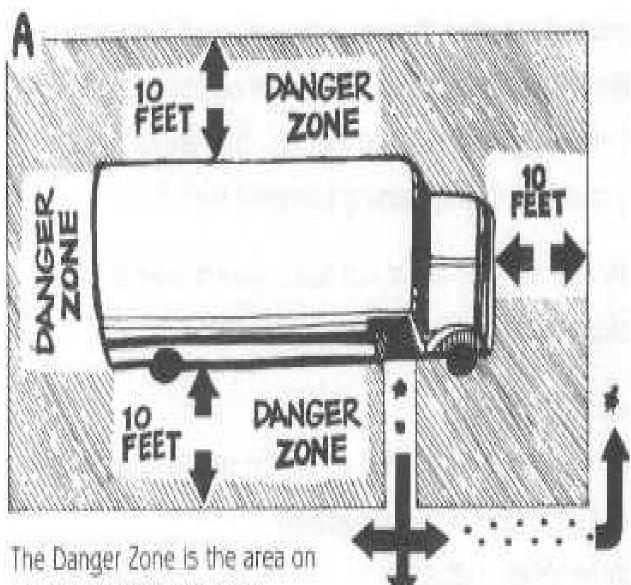


- Do you keep your eyes moving and search the roadway ahead?
- Do you think about what you see and identify the hazards?
- Do you slow and prepare to stop when you see a schoolbus?

Do you watch closely for pedestrians before sunrise and at dusk?

Pedestrian accidents around schoolbuses usually involve children aged 5 to 9. They may not remember to watch out for you. Please watch out for them.





The Danger Zone is the area on all sides of the bus where children are in the most danger of being hit. Children should stay

ten feet away from the bus (or as far away as they can) and never go behind it. They should take five giant steps in front of the bus before crossing, so they can be seen by the driver.

5 GIANT STEPS